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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,478	03/25/2004	Masayasu Suzuki	50195-418	6313

7590 01/11/2007

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, DALENA	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3661	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/11/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/808,478	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dalena Tran	3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 October 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *9-11,15 and 16* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-8,12-14 and 17-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *3/25/04,9/13/06*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This office action is responsive to the amendment filed on 10/27/06. Claims 1-20 are pending.

The prior art submitted on 3/25/04, and 9/13/06 has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2, 7-8, 13-14, 17, and 17-20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aqueous Res:KK (JP 10-214397) (refer as '397).

As per claims 1, 13, 17, and 19-20, ('397) discloses an information providing device installed in a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle, for providing the follower vehicle with guidance prepared by the leader vehicle, the information providing device comprising: a state detector configured to detect a state change in the leader vehicle to output a detecting signal, wherein the state change occurs in the vehicle when a driver of the vehicle provides an input to the vehicle (see the abstract, lines 4-9, start at line "problem to be solved"), and guidance generator configured to prepare, in response to the detecting signal, the guidance to guide the follower vehicle, wherein the guidance includes a photographed image of a view ahead of the leader vehicle, and information of the state change overlaid on the photographed image (see the abstract, lines 9-22, count line 1 start from "problem to be solved")

As per claim 2, ('397) discloses wherein the state detector is coupled to a turn signal installed in the leader vehicle, detects operation of the turn signal and outputs the detecting signal (see the abstract, lines 4-9, count line 1 start at line "problem to be solved").

Also, as per claim 7, ('397) discloses wherein the guidance generator obtains a relative distance between the leader vehicle and the follower vehicle according to a running speed of the leader vehicle, and a position of the leader vehicle related to time, a running speed of the follower vehicle, and a position of the follower vehicle related to time (see the abstract).
As per claim 8, ('397) discloses the information providing device installed in a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle, for providing the follower vehicle with guidance prepared by the leader vehicle, the information providing device comprising: a state detector configured to detect a state change in the leader vehicle to output a detecting signal, wherein the state change occurs in the vehicle when a driver of the vehicle gives an input to the vehicle (see the abstract, lines 4-9, count line 1 start at line "problem to be solved"); and a guidance generator configured to prepare, in response to the detecting signal, guidance to guide the follower vehicle, wherein the guidance including a photographed image of a view ahead of the leader vehicle (see the abstract, lines 1-14, count line 1 start at line "problem to be solved"), wherein: the state detector coupled to a lamp switch detects operation of the lamp switch installed in the leader vehicle and outputs the detecting signal; and the guidance includes an image ahead of the leader vehicle photographed when the lamp is turned on (see the abstract, lines 14-22, count line 1 start at line "problem to be solved").

As per claim 14, ('397) discloses an information providing system comprising: a sender used when a vehicle is a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle, the sender configured to

provide the follower vehicle with guidance for guiding the follower vehicle, the sender including: a state detector configured to detect a state change in the leader vehicle, the state change occurs in the vehicle when a driver of the vehicle provides an input to the vehicle (see the abstract, lines 4-9, count line 1 start at line "problem to be solved"), and guidance generating instructions that causes the system to prepare, in response to the detecting signal, guidance to guide the follower vehicle, wherein the guidance includes a photographed image of a view ahead of the leader vehicle, and information of the state change overlaid on the photographed image; and transferring instructions that cause the system to transfer the prepared guidance to the follower vehicle (see the abstract, lines 9-22, count line 1 start at line "problem to be solved").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 3, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aqueous Res:KK (JP 10-214397) (refer as '397) in view of Nissan Diesel Motor Co. Ltd (JP 2002-170200) (refers as '200).

As per claim 3, ('397) does not disclose directional input. However, ('200) discloses guidance generator obtains a directional input to the turn signal (see the "solution" paragraph). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

modify the teach of ('397) by combining directional input to provide the direction change signal to the follower vehicle.

6. Claims 4, 6, 12, and 18, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aqueous Res:KK (JP 10-214397) (refer as '397) in view of Honda Co. Ltd (JP 2002-117494) (refers as '494).

As per claims 4, and 6, ('397) does not disclose position of the leader vehicle. However, ('494) discloses the guidance generator obtains a position of the leader vehicle, and a running speed of the leader vehicle (see the abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of ('397) by combining position of the leader vehicle to provide guidance to the follower vehicle.

As per claim 12, ('397) discloses an information providing system comprising: a sender used when a vehicle is a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle, wherein the sender is configured to provide the follower vehicle with guidance for guiding the follower vehicle (see the abstract, lines 8-9, count line 1 start at line "problem to be solved"), the sender including: a state detector configured to detect a state change in the leader vehicle, wherein the state change occurs in the vehicle when a driver of the vehicle provides an input to the vehicle (see the abstract, lines 4-9, count line 1 start at line "problem to be solved"); and a guidance generator configured to prepare, in response to the state change detected by the state detector, the guidance including a photographed image of a view ahead of the leader vehicle, and information of the state change overlaid on the photographed image (see the abstract, lines 9-22, count line 1 start at line "problem to be solved"). ('397) do not disclose a presenter. However, ('494) discloses a presenter, installed in the follower vehicle, configured to receive the sent guidance and to present

the guidance, the presenter including: a guidance obtainer configured to obtain the guidance including the photographed image of the view ahead of the leader vehicle; and an output unit configured to provide the user with the guidance obtained by the guidance obtainer (see the abstract).

7. Claim 5, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aqueous Res:KK (JP 10-214397) (refer as '397).

As per claim 5, ('397) do not disclose the guidance generator obtains time on the leader vehicle. However, ('397) discloses obtains distance and speed of the leader vehicle (see the abstract). It would have been obvious that time can be determined from the distance and speed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of ('397) by combining obtains time on the leader vehicle to keep track the path of the leader vehicle.

8. Claims 9-11, and 15-16 are allowable.

Remarks

9. Applicant's argument filed on 10/27/06 has been fully considered. Upon updated search, the new ground of rejection has been set forth as above.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalena Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-6968. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30 AM-4:00 PM), off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 571-272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner
Dalena Tran

January 7, 2007